



## **West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**

### **Regional Update**

**April 29, 2013, 0700 CDT**

- Displaced residents were allowed into their homes on April 27-28, 2013. Displaced residents retrieved personal belongings and evaluated their homes. Commercial restoration companies have begun work in the affected neighborhood with the installation of blue roofs, removal of sheetrock and other tasks associated with restoration of homes in the neighborhood affected by the explosion. Volunteer groups assisted throughout the affected neighborhood assisting the displaced residents.

- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, EPA obtained the most recent total number of structures evaluated that have been damaged from the explosion. This total of 214 structures includes: residential structures; schools; nursing home; and businesses. The classification system is based on the percent of total damage to the structure and number of structures is as follows: 17 structures with no damage; 0 - 1% (6); 1 - 10% (1); 10 - 30% (15); 30 - 60% (34); 60 - 100% (50); 100% (81); and, unrated 10.
- April 28<sup>th</sup>, a Town Hall meeting was hosted by the City of West Mayor, Tommy Muska. TCEQ and EPA did not participate in the meeting. The meeting was mainly to discuss the Mayor's productive discussions with state officials on infrastructure damage and recovery.
- On April 27 and 28th, EPA continued daytime air monitoring activities with three stationary sites to the west and north of the facility. The northern monitoring site was added to provide a downwind site during south winds. The site is approximately one half mile north of the fertilizer facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds and ammonia. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during this weekend's operations.
- On April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>, debris coordination meetings were held with EPA, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Forest Service (TFS), FEMA, TCEQ TDSHS, and the McLennan County Emergency Manager (MCEM) representing the City of West. FEMA facilitated the meetings and presented a two page best management practices document that addressed debris management with and without public assistance. The TCEQ provided a debris management document that they have utilized in past disasters. The next debris coordination meeting will be held at 1300 on April 29th with all of the above participants. EPA continues to provide technical assistance on best practices of debris management.
- EPA received preliminary pesticide soil sampling results on April 26<sup>th</sup> (soil samples completed April 21<sup>st</sup>, collected in the vicinity of the site from public access areas). No pesticides were detected in the soil samples with the exception of Roundup, which was detected at two locations. The detected sample results of 6.6 and 6.1 mg/kg were less than the TCEQ Protective Concentration Level for residential soils of 6,700 mg/kg for Roundup (Glyphosate).
- The public drinking water system is still being evaluated throughout the City of West. The TCEQ, State of Texas Public Works Response Team and City of West personnel continued assessing the system. A boiled water notice remains in effect.
- EPA is compiling air monitoring data for ammonia to be uploaded onto the TCEQ website. EPA Toxicologist will assess results before submitting to TCEQ.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>EPA OSC</b>	<b>EPA RSC in Field</b>	<b>R6 Contractor In Field</b>	<b>National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents</b>	<b>EPA In REOC</b>	<b>Contractor In REOC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

\*Current as of 0700 hrs 4/29. The Mobile Command Post is deployed. One R6 OSC removes to the site at 0630 CST 4/29.